GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:126
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;T. GOVINDAN;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to pay an amount of over Rs.500 crore to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for supplying foodgrains for the mid-day meal scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the FCI has threatened to stop supplies of foodgrains unless the Government pays up its arrear amounting to Rs.500 crore after March, 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the mid-day meal scheme for primary schools does not run into trouble?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a)& (b): As per available information, Rs.443 crore is required to be paid to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 31.12.2002 for supplying foodgrains under Mid-day Meal Scheme.

(c),(d)&(e): Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (CAR&PD) had informed this Ministry that no foodgrains will be available on credit basis in future. This Ministry has already requested them not to interrupt supplies under the Mid-day Meal Scheme and supplies continue to be made. Ministry of Finance has also been requested to provide sufficient funds for the programme so that arrears can be paid.